

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00039 091630Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01 CG-00

DOT-00 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 EURE-00

/086 W

----- 034907

O P 091528Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5929

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK 0458

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO US

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO OF
NEW GOI DIPLOMATIC ACTION

REF: REYKJAVIK 0035

1. SUMMARY. REACTION OF PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO YESTERDAY'S
GOI ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS NEXT MOVES IN FISHERIES DISPUTE (REFTEL)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00039 091630Z

GENERALLY SUPPORT APPROACH TO NATO FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES WITH

UK, WITH IMPLIED THREAT THAT IF ICELAND'S HOPES ARE NOT REALIZED, RESULT COULD BE BLOW TO SUPPORT FOR NATO IN ICELAND. END SUMMARY.

2. JANUARY 8 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOI INITIATIVES IN FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH UK WAS FEATURED ITEM IN ALL MORNING PAPERS TODAY. ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S TIMINN EDITORIAL LABELED "WHAT WILL NATO AND U.S. DO," SAYS THAT IN WAKE OF BRITISH RAMMINGS, ICELANDERS ARE ASKING IF IT IS NOT TIME TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH UK, REVIEW GOI POSITION VIS-A-VIS NATO, AND RE-EVALUATE DEFENSE TIES WITH U.S. SIMILARLY, HE GOES ON, ICELANDERS WONDER WHAT IS ATTITUDE OF FELLOW NORDICS TOWARD DISPUTE. THESE QUESTIONS, ACCORDING TO THORARINSSON, WILL GAIN INCREASING CURRENCY IF BRITISH RAMMINGS DO NOT STOP.

3. INDEPENDENCE PARTY'S MAJOR DAILY MORGUNBLADID HAILS GOI ACTION. OF MAIN INTEREST, PAPER SAYS, IS EMPHASIS ON UTILIZATION OF NATO IN GOI'S PROPOSALS. "THIS ESPECIALLY UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND SHOWS THAT IF WE WERE NOT MEMBERS OUR FLEXIBILITY FOR POLITICAL ACTION WOULD BE MUCH MORE LIMITED." THJODVILJINN, DAILY OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE, DENOUNCED "NATO FIXATION" INHERENT IN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS AND CALLS GOI POLICY WEAK. PAPER ALSO CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR NOT MAKING BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH UK AN ULTIMATUM UNLESS RAMMINGS CEASE.

4. OTHER OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS ALSO NOTED NATO ASPECT OF GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. IN AN INTERVIEW AFTER GOI ANNOUNCEMENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN BENEDIKT GONDAL RECALLED THAT HIS PARTY HAD PROMISED SUPPORT FOR ANY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AND SAID SDP CONSIDERED NATO MOST LIKELY FORUM FOR GAINING RESULTS. LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS KARVEL PALMASON EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S MOVE, CALLING IT NATURAL REACTION TO UK BEHAVIOR. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT MEASURES WERE WARNING--NOT LEAST TO NATO. PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARLIAMENTARY LEADER LUDVIK JOSEFSSON SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY WITH DECISION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS BETTER THAN NOTHING. HE SAID THERE WAS LITTLE USE IN SENDING EMISSARIES AND CALLING MEETINGS; INSTEAD NATO AND U.S. SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT IF BRITISH WARSHIPS ARE NOT OUT OF ICELAND'S FISHING JURISDICTION WITHIN ONE WEEK, GOI WILL WITHDRAW FROM NATO AND CLOSE KEFLAVIK BASE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 REYKJA 00039 091630Z

5. COMMENT: EMPHASIS ON NATO IN YESTERDAY'S GOI ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH REPEATED ASSERTIONS BY PRIMEMIN AND OTHER OFFICIALS THAT ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP IS VALUABLE TOOL FOR ICELAND IN FISHERIES DISPUTE AND THAT COUNTRY WOULD LOSE KEY ADVANTAGE IF IT WERE TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO OR SUSPEND PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, GOI'S HEAVY RELIANCE ON NATO AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE COULD BE TWO-EDGED SWORD. IF GOI'S WELL PUBLICIZED AND HIGHLY VISIBLE

INITIATIVES DO NOT SHOW SOME RESULTS, SKEPTICISM IN ICELAND ABOUT WORTH OF NATO MEMBERSHIP WHEN CHIPS ARE DOWN WILL INCREASE, AND ANTI-NATO ELEMENTS WILL ASSUREDLY HAVE HAND STRENGTHENED. RELIANCE ON NATO SEEMS TO HEARTEN BOTH THE PRO AND THE ANTI-NATO ELEMENTS. THE FORMER, BY AND LARGE, FIND IT INCONCEIVABLE BECAUSE OF ICELAND'S STRATEGIC MILITARY POSITION, AND BECAUSE PRESENT GOVT IS MOST FAVORABLE ONE YET TO NATO, THAT NATO CAN IGNORE ICELAND'S "PLIGHT." THE ANTI-NATO FORCES, ON OTHER HAND, BELIEVE NATO WILL PROVE TO BE IMPOTENT AND THUS LEND SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION OF A NEUTRAL ICELAND. ALTHOUGH ONE CAN ALSO BE SUSPICIOUS THAT THE HEAVY RELIANCE ON NATO IS A TACTIC TO FORCE NATO ACTION AND UK CAPITULATION, THE MAJORITY OF ICELANDERS ARE SINCERELY SHOCKED THAT NATO AND THE UK WOULD PERMIT THE SITUATION TO DETERIORATE TO A LEVEL WHICH ICELAND CONSIDERS EXTREMELY SERIOUS.

IRVING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, ALLIANCE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, FISHING BOATS, NAVAL SHIPS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976REYKJA00039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0716
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaacbl.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 REYKJAVIK 35
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO OF NEW GOI DIPLOMATIC ACTION
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006